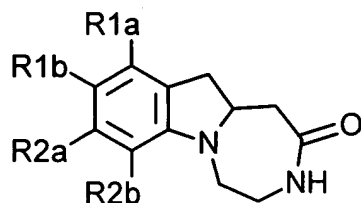


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-18 (cancelled).

19(currently amended). A compound of the following formula:



where R1a, R1b, R2a and R2b are each independently H, Cl, Br, I, F, CN, CF₃, OCF₃, C₁-C₄ alkyl, OR₅, CONR₅R₆, COR₅, CO₂R₅, Y(CH₂)_mXR₅ or YC(O)(CH₂)_mXR₅, where m = 0-3, Y = CH₂, S, O, or NR₆, X = CH₂, S, O, or NR₆; and

~~_____ R₅ and R₆ are each independently H, linear, branched or cyclic C₄-C₈ alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl groups or (CH₂)_pAr where p = 0-3 and Ar is aryl or heteroaryl, Ar being optionally substituted with one or more of the following: H, halogen, CN, NO₂, OR₇, CF₃, OCF₃, SR₇, SO₂R₇, NR₇R₈, CONR₇R₈, COR₇, or R₇ where R₇ and R₈ are each independently H, linear, branched or cyclic C₄-C₈ alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl groups, or (CH₂)_pPh where p = 0-3.~~

R₅ and R₆ are each independently

_____ (a) H, linear or branched C₁-C₈ alkyl, linear or branched C₂-C₈ alkenyl, linear or branched C₂-C₈ alkynyl, C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, or C₃-C₈ cycloalkenyl; or

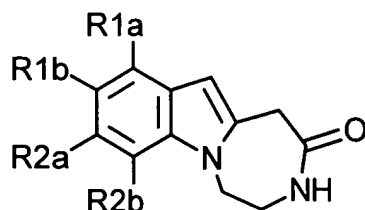
_____ (b) (CH₂)_pAr where p = 0-3 and Ar is aryl or heteroaryl, Ar being optionally substituted with one or more of the following: H, halogen, CN, NO₂, OR₇, CF₃, OCF₃, SR₇, SO₂R₇, NR₇R₈, CONR₇R₈, COR₇, or R₇;

where R₇ and R₈ are each independently

_____ (a) H, linear, branched or cyclic C₁-C₈ alkyl, linear or branched C₂-C₈ alkenyl, linear or branched alkynyl, C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, or C₃-C₈ cycloalkenyl; or

_____ (b) (CH₂)_pAr where Ar is phenyl and p = 0-3.

20(currently amended). A compound of the following formula:



where R1a, R1b, R2a and R2b are each independently H, Cl, Br, I, F, CN, CF₃, OCF₃, C₁-C₄ alkyl, OR₅, CONR₅R₆, COR₅, CO₂R₅, Y(CH₂)_mXR₅ or YC(O)(CH₂)_mXR₅, where m = 0-3, Y = CH₂, S, O, or NR₆, X = CH₂, S, O, or NR₆, with the proviso that R1a, R1b, R2a and R2b are not all H; and

~~_____ R₅ and R₆ are each independently H, linear, branched or cyclic C₄-C₈ alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl groups or (CH₂)_pAr where p = 0-3 and Ar is aryl or heteroaryl, Ar being optionally substituted with one or more of the following: H, halogen, CN, NO₂, OR₇, CF₃, OCF₃, SR₇, SO₂R₇, NR₇R₈, CONR₇R₈, COR₇, or R₇ where R₇ and R₈ are each independently H, linear, branched or cyclic C₄-C₈ alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl groups, or (CH₂)_pPh where p = 0-3.~~

R₅ and R₆ are each independently

(a) H, linear or branched C₁-C₈ alkyl, linear or branched C₂-C₈ alkenyl, linear or branched C₂-C₈ alkynyl, C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, or C₃-C₈ cycloalkenyl; or

(b) (CH₂)_pAr where p = 0-3 and Ar is aryl or heteroaryl, Ar being optionally substituted with one or more of the following: H, halogen, CN, NO₂, OR₇, CF₃, OCF₃, SR₇, SO₂R₇, NR₇R₈, CONR₇R₈, COR₇, or R₇;

where R₇ and R₈ are each independently

(a) H, linear, branched or cyclic C₁-C₈ alkyl, linear or branched C₂-C₈ alkenyl, linear or branched alkynyl, C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, or C₃-C₈ cycloalkenyl; or

(b) (CH₂)_pAr where Ar is phenyl and p = 0-3.

Claims 21-27 (cancelled).